

Message Text

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FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: WIS CIRCULAR USIA 5445,

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "EVERYMAN'S RIGHTS," WHICH APPEARED IN THE SUNDAY TIMES OF MALTA OF MARCH 6:

2. "THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE ARE CONCENTRATING THE FREE WORLD'S ATTENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH SHOULD UNITE ALL MANKIND ON SOMETHING THAT REALLY MATTERS IN THE DAILY LIFE OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN EVERYWHERE. ONLY RESPECT FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS CAN GIVE MEANING TO THE PEACE, DETENTE AND SECURITY STATEMENTS AGREED ON AT THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE, IN HELSINKI, IN 1975.

3. "WHILST CLAIMING TO HAVE TAKEN THE INIATIVE IN GETTING THAT CONFERENCE GOING, SOVIET RUSSIA IS AMONG THE WORST OFFENDERS AGAINST SUCH BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AS FREEDOM OF RELIGION, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION. THE 'DISSIDENTS' IN SOVIET RUSSIA AND ITS EAST EUROPEAN SATELLITIES, AND THE ONES NO ONE HEARS ANYTHING ABOUT IN CHINA, ARE LIVING TORCHES LIGHTING UP WHAT ONE WOULD LIKE TO THINK OF AS THE WAY LEADING TO GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00267 071125Z

EVERYWHERE.

4. "LIP SERVICE TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS EASILY RENDERED BY COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TRUTH?"

5. FOLLOWING COMMENT ON THE SOVIET HANDBOOK "LEGISLATION ON RELIGIOUS

CULTS" AND ON SOLZHENITSYN AND THE ORTHODOX PRIEST FR. DMITRI DUDKO, THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO SAY:

6. "IN CONTRAST WITH THEIR POLICY OF ATHEISM AND PERSECUTION OF THE FAITHFUL AT HOME, THE SOVIET LEADERS TRY TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE ABROAD, ESPECIALLY IN THIRD WORLD MUSLIM COUNTRIES. A WORLD CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS PEACE FORCES IS BEING ORGANISED IN MOSCOW NEXT JUNE. RELIGIOUS LEADERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE BEING INVITED. SUCH MEETINGS ARE MERE ADJUNCTS TO SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND SERVE AS PROPAGANDA EXERCISES DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT THERE IS FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN THE SOVIET UNION AND UNDER COMMUNISM.

7. "MORE THAN 50 BAPTIST 'DISSIDENTS' HAVE SIGNED A DOCUMENT DESCRIBING HOW A PRAYER MEETING WAS BROKEN UP ON DECEMBER 28, 1975 IN A DISTRICT OF VOROSHILOVGRAD. THEY RECOUNT HOW A MAJOR L.G. KLOCHAN, WHO LED THE RAID, WAS REMINDED OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. 'AND WHO SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT? WHO HAS READ IT? WHERE YOU THERE? HE ASKED. HE WAS TOLD IN REPLY THAT 'THE AGREEMENT IN HELSINKI WAS SIGNED BY BREZHNEV HIMSELF.' THE MAJOR REPLIED: 'IT'S RUBBISH.' 'THE AGREEMENT IS RUBBISH? BREZHNEV'S SIGNATURE IS RUBBISH,' THE BELIEVERS ASKED. 'YES, IT'S RUBBISH,' KLOCHAN MAINTAINED.

8. "THIS EVENT PUTS INTO PERSPECTIVE SOVIET BOASTS ABOUT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE. SOVIET INSINCERITY EXPLAINS AND FULLY JUSTIFIES PREPARATIONS BEING MADE IN THE UNITED STATES, WESTERN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE TO TAKE A COMMON STAND ON HUMAN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 VALLET 00267 071125Z

RIGHTS AT A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE MEETING, NEXT JUNE, IN BELGRADE, TO CONSIDER WHAT REMAINS UNDONE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. CAN WE IN MALTA REMAIN INDIFFERENT ON THE GROUND OF 'NON-ALIGNMENT'?"
RADDAY

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